

schools, the parish churchyard, and the West London Union Workhouse. It also involved the displacement of a population of 10,000 people. Yet the corporation were preparing to incur an outlay of 30,000*l.* an acre, when two miles off they might get the space required at a cost of 500*l.* an acre. They could look for nothing from the city, and they must only hope that Government would at once appoint a commission to decide on the best site, or sites, for a new cattle-market. He hoped that the unanimous vote of the vestry would be given to assist in getting rid of one of the greatest nuisances that ever disgraced a civilised society. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. Jackson, the Hon. P. Byng, Lord de Mauley, and Mr. Garratt; and being carried unanimously, a committee was immediately nominated in compliance with the terms of it.

REPORT OF METROPOLITAN SEWERS COMMISSION.—A public meeting has been held in Marylebone, to consider the report of the committee for preparing the heads of a Bill to be submitted to Government, and urged on their consideration through the medium of a deputation: Mr. Nicholas occupied the chair. Lord D. Stuart, M.P., Mr. Hertalet, Mr. Toulmin Smith, &c., were present; and the parishes represented were—St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; St. James's, Westminster; St. Mary's, Islington; St. Luke's, Middlesex; St. Leonard's, Shore-ditch; St. Giles's-in-the-Fields; St. Anne's, Soho; Clerkenwell; Hornsey; Camberwell; &c. Mr. Smith detailed what the committee had done, and the short points approved in committee, which related to the making of districts by a representative body, elected by the inhabitants of parishes, and pointed out the essentials of such districts, and their combination into one general council, composed of two representatives, elected by each district council. Lord D. Stuart then addressed the meeting, and Mr. Saunders, of St. Martin's, moved, "That the statement included in the paper laid before this meeting by the committee be accepted, as embodying the only principles on which a measure relating to the sewage of the metropolis could be received." Mr. L. C. Hertalet seconded the resolution, which was supported by Messrs. Fowler, Horne, Heeley, Hall, Garrett, and others, on the part of the different parishes, and was carried unanimously. A committee was then appointed to communicate with all the metropolitan members, and take steps for arranging for an interview with the Home Secretary.*

ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.—At a meeting of the City Commissioners of sewers, on the 21st, Mr. Barber brought forward a correspondence between the Cathedral authorities and the Police Commissioners, from which it appears that there is still an obstacle in the way of throwing open the gates of the enclosure; namely, who is to pay for the constables who are deemed necessary to prevent any abuse of the privilege. It is to be hoped that a trifling difficulty such as this between two such bodies will speedily be obviated.

BELGIAN PATENT-LAW REFORM.—The law of patents in Belgium is to be altered. One of the chief principles laid down in the draft of the law, as quoted by the *Mining Journal*, appears to have been suggested by the Report of our own Society of Arts' Committee, namely, that patents of inventions ought to be assimilated to all other kinds of property, enjoy the same rights, and support the same charges, &c. The tax on patents is fixed at 10 francs, paid down, for the first year; 20 francs for the second, and so on increasing 10 francs each year, until the surrender of the patent. Every assignee and licensee must pay the same tax as the patentee, and either will surrender their rights by not doing so. The Government has power to remit all, or part, of the tax in certain cases. The invention must be put into work within two years, and must not be

ensupended for three years together. Piracy and infringement are to be submitted to the Council of Prudhommes, who will, if the infringer appear to be actuated by good faith, endeavour to amicably arrange between the parties; and if this cannot be effected, will cause efficient reparation to be made; but if the infringer appear not to be so actuated, damages will be awarded, and the confiscation of all the piratical articles, &c.; and this judgment is to be publicly notified. Patents of improvement upon a patent will be granted on the usual terms. Patents of importation will remain in force 25 years.

MOUSE POWER.—A gentleman in Kirkaldy has trained a couple of mice, and invented machinery, enabling them to spin cotton yarn. The work is so constructed, that the common house mouse is enabled to make atonement to society for past offences, by twisting twine and reeling from 100 to 126 threads per day. To complete this, the little pedestrian has to run 10½ miles. A halfpenny worth of oatmeal, at 1*s.* 3*d.* per peck, serves one of these treadwheel culprits for the long period of five weeks. In that time it makes 110 threads per day. At this rate a mouse earns 7*s.* 6*d.* per annum. Take off 5*d.* for board and 1*s.* for machinery, there will arise 6*s.* clear for every mouse annually. The mouse employer was going to make an application for the lease of an old empty house, which will hold 10,000 mouse mills, sufficient room being left for keepers, and some hundreds of spectators.

PRUSSIAN FLOOR POLISHERS.—The mania for forming privileged guilds and trades, says the Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, has seized the floor-polishers, the industrials who operate with bees'-wax and brushes on the stairs and floors of the better sort of houses, and give them that smooth and shining surface which is the triumph of housewifery. The class begins to show alarm at the increasing taste for carpets, and specially demand protection against housemaids. It has applied to the police for permission to form a guild, with power to grant licenses to practice, preceded, as in all other trades, by a formal examination of the fitness of the candidate to exercise the art and mystery. The police has refused the application, on the ground that floor scrubbing does not demand that "previous technical instruction" which constitutes a trade or craft, nor the degrees and grades of apprenticeship, journeyman, and master.

AN IRON CHURCH.—At this time, when the construction of the Great Exhibition Building, and of iron structures in general, is occupying all minds, it may not be deemed improper to draw attention to a successful effort in the same direction made ten years ago: we allude to the Bowling Church, near Bradford, built in 1840, at the sole expense of the eminent firm of the Bowling Ironworks, for the use of their numerous workmen and of the surrounding population. It is composed entirely of stone and iron, excepting the rafters, &c. of the roof, which are, consequently, the only combustible portion. There is a spire 136 feet high; and, from the lofty site of the building, it forms altogether an object of considerable interest. The Lancet Gothic capitals are of very elaborate ironcasting, and there is an immense quantity of ironwork introduced into various parts of the fabric: ten years' experience has proved that the building is most substantial; and on a recent visit by the architect he found all to be exactly as it was when the contractors left it.—*Waterhampton Chronicle*.

THE RUSSELL INSTITUTION, RUSSELL-SQUARE.—The committee of this institution are varying their proceedings by giving *soirées* in lieu of some of the ordinary lecture nights. At the first, on the 15th, Mr. C. R. Weld gave an account of the Arctic Expeditions, more particularly with reference to the search for Sir John Franklin. The interest felt in this subject was shown by the crowd who were unable to get into the theatre. Photography, Egyptian Architecture, and Water Supply will be treated of at ensuing meetings.

ROYAL ACADEMY STUDENTS.—The following gentlemen were admitted as architectural students on the 11th inst., namely, Messrs. Rowley, Irvine, Newson, Theakston, Boyket, and James. The subject given was for a college theatre and lecture rooms.

BLACKSTAR BRIDGES.—The settlement of the foundations of the fourth arch is reported to have now entirely ceased, as well as the consequent sinking of the piers. Models have been prepared of an iron segment, to strengthen and support the arch. The thoroughfare, it is said, will not be closed while the necessary repairs are being effected.

MONSTER LUMP OF ZINC ORE FOR THE EXHIBITION.—A New York paper says:—"An enormous mass of zinc ore, from the mines of the New Jersey Exploring and Mining Company, Sussex County, passed through the city yesterday to the Navy-yard, Brooklyn, to be sent to the great London Exhibition. It is the pure red oxide of zinc, which is found nowhere else in the world but in Sussex County, New Jersey. The dimensions are—five feet long, and between three and four feet broad and deep, the weight being 16,400 lb., or nearly eight tons.

THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.—On Friday, the 17th inst., a paper was read before this Association, at Lyon's Ion Hall, by Mr. H. T. Braithwaite, on "The Study and Application of Art," which we shall print in full. On Friday, the 31st, Mr. R. W. Billings will deliver a lecture on "Gothic Tracery," with illustrations.

PATENT LAW REFORM.—A body of patentees, and proprietors of patent property, has been formed into a company, under the title of the "Association of Patentees and Proprietors of Patents for the Protection and Regulation of Patent Property." The objects of this association are to promote, by the diffusion of information, by legislative measures and otherwise, the reform of the patent laws.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Mr. William Rathbone, of Liverpool, has offered three guineas for the best essay on the following subject:—"How may the working-classes, now that work is more abundant, and food and clothing at the lowest prices, best improve their circumstances, so as to raise the social, physical, and moral condition of themselves and of their families?"

POLYGLOT GUIDE TO LONDON.—In the last number of the *Home Circle* a concise Guide to London is given in English, French, and German.

THE SLATE QUARRIES OF WALES.*

It has truly been said, as we all must deplore,
That Greenvile and Pitt made poets by the score;
But now 'tis asserted, unless I have blundered,
There's a man who makes peeresses here by the hundred.
He regards neither Greenvile, nor Portland, nor Pitt,
But creates them at once without patent or writ:
By the stroke of the hammer, without the king's aid,
A lady, a countess, a duchess is made.
Yet high is the station from which they are sent,
And all their great titles are got by descent;
And when they are seen in a palace or shop,
Their rank they preserve and are still at the top.
Yet no merit they claim from their birth or connection,
And derive their chief worth from their native complexion.
And all the best judges prefer, it is said,
A countess in blue to a duchess in red.
This countess, or lady, though crowds may be present,
Submits to be dressed by the hands of a peasant:
And you'll see, when her grace is but once in his clutches,
With how little respect he will handle a duchess.
Close united they seem, and yet all who have tried them,
Soon discover how easy it is to divide them.
No spirit have they, they are thin as a lath.
The countess wants life, and the duchess is flat.
No passion or warmth to the countess is known,
And her grace is as cold and as hard as a stone.
Yet I fear you will find, if you watch them a little,
That the countess is frail, and the duchess is brittle.

CARRARA MARBLE.

"Agas had roll'd, or e'er the hand of man
Boldly the great career of Art began
Unvalued and unpenetrated, then,
Rove the rude mountains in Carrara's glen:
No fragment from Latenza's lonely shore,
Had bade the world fall prostrate, and adore;
But in the rugged cliffs, unseen, untrod,
Cold in the lifeless marble slept the God;
Till Genius started from his sleep, and spoke,
And the long night of countess ages broke;
Bade the rough precipice its stores unlock,
Sent forth to fame the animated rock,
And made the wonder-stricken nations own
Unperishable life, in lifeless stone."

* By the late Judge Laycester, of the North Wales Circuit: where the lines were originally published we do not know.

* Mr. Harris, of Islington, moved, and Mr. Saunders, of St. Martin's, seconded the following:—"That the Secretary of State for the Home Department be requested to instruct the Government Auditor carefully to see that the rates and other moneys levied, received, and recovered by the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers have been properly applied (so as not to extend the liability of any person in respect of any rate or payment), and that he distinguish in his report the times and purposes when and for which moneys were received and paid, and the respective districts or places in and for which moneys have been collected and expended." At the request of Mr. Toulmin Smith, however, it was ultimately agreed that this motion should be given as a notice for the next meeting.